

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to proposed decisions and recommendations for the 2019 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. CONFIRM and APPROVE the 2019 Brush Clearance Assessments, as recommended by the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) at its meeting held on November 17, 2020 and detailed in the November 18, 2020 Board report, attached to the Council file.
2. AMEND the 2019 Brush Clearance Assessments for the following appeals:

- a. Waive the administrative fee of \$1,312 and confirm the total assessment of \$750 for the parcel identified as APN 5209002003, situs address vacant lot located at 3125 North Eva Terrace.
- b. Waive the administrative fees totaling \$3,936 and confirm the total assessment of \$28,500 as detailed below:

APN	Situs Address	Assessment
5556035011	Vacant lot north of 1936 North Crescent Heights Boulevard	\$19,500
5556035012	Vacant lot north of 1916 North Crescent Heights Boulevard	\$4,500
5556035014	Vacant lot north of 1908 North Crescent Heights Boulevard	\$4,500
	Total:	\$28,500

- c. Waive the administrative fee of \$1,312 and confirm the total assessment of \$29,950 for the parcel identified as APN 2601032032, situs address 11751 Zelzah Avenue.
- d. Waive the administrative fee of \$1,312 and confirm the total assessment of \$2,600 for the parcel identified as APN 5213007003, situs address 4731 East Huntington Drive North.
- e. Waive the administrative fee of \$1,312 and confirm the total assessment of \$1,550 for the parcel identified as APN 4392009012, situs address 9267 Cordell Drive.
- f. Waive the administrative fee, reduce the cost of clearance by 50 percent and confirm the total assessment of \$4,750 for the parcel identified as 4420020006, situs address 1218 Tellum Drive.
- g. Waive the administrative fee, reduce the cost of clearance by 50 percent and confirm the total assessment of \$850.

3. DIRECT the Los Angeles Fire Department to:

- a. Mail the notification letter (Attachment 2 of the November 18, 2020 Board report, attached to the Council file), to the property owner regarding the Board findings, conclusion and proposed assessment.
- b. Transmit November 18, 2020 Board report and proposed decision of the hearing officers to the City Attorney.
- c. Forward the November 18, 2020 Board report, attached to the Council file, upon approval by Council, to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector for placement on the Los Angeles County 2020 Property Tax rolls.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Board reports that property owners are assessed an administrative fee of \$1,304 and the cost of clearance to abate the hazard for failure to comply with brush clearance requirements. The average cost of clearance is \$1,000 to 5,000. For the 2019 brush season, 97 appeal requests were received from property owners electing to appeal their assessments. Of the 97 appeals received, seven were granted or reduced. The Brush Clearance Assessment Hearings estimated total revenue is \$517,128.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On December 8, 2020, your Committee considered a November 18, 2020 Board report relative to proposed decisions and recommendations for the 2019 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals. According to the Board, this year the LAFD received 97 requests from property owners who chose to appeal the imposed assessment. The cases were randomly distributed to the hearing officers in keeping with the recent California Supreme Court's decision regarding administrative hearings and the City Attorney's recommendation in the matter. Invoices setting forth the cost of abatement, administrative fee and/or a noncompliance fee were mailed to property owners. A letter was included with the invoice informing the property owner if they wished to present evidence that shows cause why the property should not be assessed for the cost of abatement or not be assessed in the amount specified in the notice, the Fire Department would schedule them for a hearing. The Brush Clearance Unit held the 2019 Brush Clearance Assessment Appeals at the Marvin Braude Center located in Van Nuys from June through October 2020. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended approval of the recommendations contained in the November 18, 2020 Board report, as amended, and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
RYU:	YES
LEE:	ABSENT

ARL
12/8/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-